

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 25-30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

DE-A 10220494 and DE-A 10200583 disclose, inter alia, the integration of the relevant vapor cooling into the top of the rectification column by the use of direct cooling. According to DE-A 10200583, condensate formed beforehand which has been supercooled and admixed with polymerization inhibitor is fed to the top region. A disadvantage of the teaching of DE-A ~~10220494~~ 10200583 is that there are no further details on the specific configuration of such direct cooling.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 32 to page 5, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the example of DE-A ~~10200583~~ 10220494, the vapor condensation integrated into the top of the column is effected by means of two direct cooling circuits (quench circuits) connected in series. The first is operated by means of supercooled top condensate which has been condensed beforehand and admixed with polymerization inhibitor (in this document, supercooled in the given context always means that the top condensate, after its withdrawal from the rectification column, has been brought to a temperature lower than the withdrawal temperature before it is fed into the rectification column for the purpose of direct cooling) and the second by means of cooled water. A disadvantage of the procedure of DE-A ~~10200583~~ 10220494 is that it uses two different coolants and the aqueous condensate resulting from the aqueous direct cooling, including the components of value contained therein, is disposed of (for example in a water treatment plant). The same applies to DE-A 10256147 as was stated with regard to DE-A 10220494.